Capsule Summary SM-462 John H. Milburn House Tall Timbers Private

Circa 1850

The John H. Milburn House is significant as an example of a modest midnineteenth century dwelling house that has been enlarged over time. Now greatly deteriorated and overgrown with brush, the oldest section of the house remains the most intact. Very few decorative interior finishes survive on the interior of the house. The series of outbuildings that once stood on the property, including an unusual barley house, have also begun to deteriorate and collapse.

On April 7, 1851, Benjamin Tippett surveyed this property for John H. Milburn. It is unclear who owned the property prior to the 1850s as no deed was recorded transfering the 204 acre parcel "Part Piney Point" to Milburn. It seems likely that Milburn may have inherited the tract.

In 1867, John H. Milburn sold "Part Piney Point" to James C. Bean for \$450. Bean possessed the property until 1883 when he sold it to Maria L. Bean who immediately sold it to William L. Biscoe. At that time, the property was occupied by Henry Adams, suggesting that Bean was renting the land to a tenant farmer.

William Biscoe, an African-American farmer, carpenter, and occasional waterman, lived here until his death around 1950. Many of the outbuildings as well as the two-story wing and one-story wing of the house were constructed during the Biscoe ownership. Mr. Biscoe's heirs sold the property in 1952.

SM-462, John H. Milbum House St. Mary's County Maryland Comprehensive State Historic Preservation Plan Data

Historic Context

Geographic Organization:

Western Shore

Chronological/Developmental Period: Agricultural-Industrial Transition, 1815-1870.

Historic Period Theme:

Architecture

Resource Type

Category:

Structure

Historic Environment:

Rural

Historic Function and Use:

Dwelling

Known Design Source:

None

Maryland Historical Trust State Historic Sites Inventory HISTORIC PROPERTIES Form

MARYLAND INVENTORY OF

Survey	No.	_ SM ÷462

Magi No.

DOE __yes __no

1. Nan	1e (indicate pr	eferred name)		
historic				
and/or common	John H. Milburn Ho	use		
2. Loca	ation			
street & number	Route 489-249			not for publication
city, town Tal	l Timbers	<u>X</u> vicinity of	congressional district	5
state Maryla	nd	county	St. Mary's	
3. Clas	sification			
Category districtX building(s) structure site object	Ownership publicX private both Public Acquisition in process being considered X not applicable	Status occupied X unoccupied work in progress Accessible _X_ yes: restricted yes: unrestricted no	Present Use agriculture commercial educational entertainment government industrial military	museum park private residence religious scientific transportation X other: None
4. Own	er of Prope	rty (give names ar	nd mailing addresses	
name James	C. Burch; Susie C.	Burch and heirs; c/	o Susan B. Amrein	-
street & number			telephone no	.:
city, town		state	and zip code	
5. Loca	ation of Leg	al Description	n	
courthouse, regi	stry of deeds, etc. St. Ma	ury's County Courtho	ıse	liber CBG 39
street & number				folio'462
city, town $_{ m Leo}$	nardtown		state _{Ma}	arvland
6. Rep	resentation	in Existing	Historical Surve	
title				
date			federal state	county local
epository for su	rvey records			
city, town			state	

Condition excellent good fair	X deteriorated ruins unexposed	Check one unaltered X altered	Check one X original site moved date of move	
excellent good	ruins	unaltered	X original site	

Survey No. SM-462

Prepare both a summary paragraph and a general description of the resource and its various elements as it exists today.

Contributing Resource Count: 2

7. Description

The John H. Milburn House is located on the east side of Piney Point Road (Route 249) near Tall Timbers in St. Mary's County, Maryland. The house is in a greatly deteriorated condition. A series of outbuildings in various states of disrepair are located behind the house. The house consists of a two-story, side hall/single parlor plan section to the north, a central one-and-a-half story section, and a one-story southern wing. The house faces west with the principal gable oriented on a north/south axis.

The earliest part of the Milburn House is the one-and-a-half story section which appears to have been built around 1850. This section is supported by a brick foundation. It is sheathed with a combination of the original beaded board siding, weatherboards, and asphalt shingles attached with mature machine cut nails and wire nails. The roof, originally sheathed with wood shingles, is covered with corrugated metal and has a boxed cornice. The two-story addition is supported by a brick foundation and sheathed with circular sawn weatherboard siding. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and trimmed with two scroll sawn brackets on each elevation. The one-story addition is sheathed with asphalt shingle siding. The roof of this wing has collapsed.

The west (main) elevation of the two-story wing is pierced by a one-light-over-two-panel entrance door with a two-light transom window and two window openings. Three window openings light the second floor. A shed roof porch, now collapsed, extends across the front facade of this wing and the smaller, one-and-a-half story main block. The central, one-and-a-half story section of the house is pierced by a partially glazed door and a window opening. A gable roof dormer window pierces the roof. A door and window opening pierce the west elevation of the one-story wing.

The south elevation of the house is blind. Originally, a brick chimney stood against the south elevation of the one-and-a-half story main block. This chimney has collapsed.

The east elevation of the one-story wing is pierced by a window opening. The one-and-a-half story block is pierced by a door and window opening. The two-story addition is pierced by a door and window opening. The northern-most bay of the two-story wing consists of an oblong shed roof addition that houses a bathroom. A shed roof porch extends across the east elevation of the two-story and one-and-a-half story sections of the house.

The north elevation of the two-story wing is blind. An exterior brick chimney

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Period preh 1400 1500 1600 X 1800 1900	1499 1599 1699 1799 1899		Check and justify below c community planning landscape architectur conservation law economics literature education military engineering music exploration/settlement philosophy industry politics/government invention	science sculpture social/ humanitarian theater
Specific	dates	Unknown	Builder/Architect Unknown	-
check:	an	cable Criteria: id/or cable Exception:	AB <u>X</u> CD _ABCDEFG	
	Level	of Significance:	nationalstate <u>X</u> local	

8. Significance

Prepare both a summary paragraph of significance and a general statement of history and support.

The John H. Milburn House is significant as an example of a modest midnineteenth century dwelling house that has been enlarged over time. Now greatly deteriorated and overgrown with brush, the oldest section of the house remains the most intact. Very few decorative interior finishes survive on the interior of the house. The series of outbuildings that once stood on the property, including an unusual barley house, have also begun to deteriorate and collapse.

On April 7, 1851, Benjamin Tippett surveyed this property for John H. Milburn. It is unclear who owned the property prior to the 1850s as no deed was recorded transfering the 204 acre parcel "Part Piney Point" to Milburn. It seems likely that Milburn may have inherited the tract.

In 1867, John H. Milburn sold "Part Piney Point" to James C. Bean for \$450. Bean possessed the property until 1883 when he sold it to Maria L. Bean who immediately sold it to William L. Biscoe. At that time, the property was occupied by Henry Adams, suggesting that Bean was renting the land to a tenant farmer.

William Biscoe, an African-American farmer, carpenter, and occasional waterman, lived here until his death around 1950. Many of the outbuildings as well as the two-story wing and one-story wing of the house were constructed during the Biscoe ownership. Mr. Biscoe's heirs sold the property in 1952.

9. Major Bibliographical References

Survey No.SM-462

10. Geographi	cal Data		
Acreage of nominated property _ Quadrangle name Piney Poi UTM References do NOT com	8 Acres nt plete UTM refer	ences	Quadrangle scale 1:24 000
A Zone Easting No	orthing	B Zone Ea	sting Northing
C		D	
Verbal boundary description	and justification		
Property extending from		<u></u>	
Property extending from			
Property extending from List all states and counties f			
Property extending from List all states and counties f	or properties over	lapping state or coun	ty boundaries
Property extending from List all states and counties f	or properties over code code	lapping state or coun	ty boundaries code
Property extending from List all states and counties f state	code code	lapping state or coun county county	ty boundaries code
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Property extending from List all states and counties f state 11. Form Prep name/title Elizabeth Hughe	code code code ared By s, Historic Site	county county county	code code . January 1995

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 supplement.

The survey and inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

return to:

Maryland Historical Trust Shaw House 21 State Circle Annapolis, Maryland 21401

(301) 269 - 2438

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST DHCP/DHCD 100 COMMUNITY PLACE CROWNSVILLE, MD 21032-2023 -514-7600 SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 7.1 Description

stands against this wall.

The interior of the two-story wing is finished with plaster walls and wide, molded window and door architraves. A paneled winder stair with a square newel post is located in the southeast corner of the hall. A closet was originally located under the stair. The first floor consists of the stair hall and one large open parlor while the second floor has been divided into two bedrooms and a side hall. Exposed framing shows that this section of the house was constructed using pegged mortise and tenon joints as well as cut and wire nails.

The one-and-a-half story main block consists of one large room on the first floor. The original door and window surrounds here have a delicate interior bead. The baseboard is also crowned by beading. The firebox located against the south wall has deteriorated. Only a pilaster fragment of the mantle remains. The pilaster rests on a plain block and consists of a recessed panel flanked by a series of built-up moldings. One unusual feature is a hole in the ceiling of the first floor located about three feet from the south wall. This hole may have served as a ventilator shaft that conveyed heat to the sleeping loft. An enclosed winder stair is located in the northeast corner of the room. A small closet has been built in underneath the stair. At the top of the stair remains a slender newel post. The corners of the post are finished with lambs tongue detailing. The upper half story is one large room. The remains of a window on the north wall of the upper half story are visible beneath the wall board that later sheathed this opening. Originally an exterior window on the north gable end of the building, this opening is on axis with the window on the south side of the house. A small opening west of the window was built to provide access between the one-and-a-half story and the later two-story section of the house. The rafters of the roof are exposed and reveal that the ends overlap and are nailed together at the apex of the roof. The rafter feet rest on the loft floor boards. Both the exposed rafters and studs in this section of the house appear to be reciprocal sawn.

The porch located on the east side of the house acts as a sheltered walkway between the house and the detached one-story kitchen. According to the notes of Gary Stone, who visited this site with John A. Bowes in 1980, the kitchen is actually a nineteenth-century outbuilding that was moved to the site and converted for use as a kitchen. The kitchen is sheathed with asphalt shingles and roofed with corrugated metal. It is supported by wood piers. The roof is oriented on an east/west axis, perpendicular to the house. The roofline is finished with a boxed cornice. A later shed roof addition extends across the east elevation of the kitchen. The kitchen consists of one large room with an interior brick chimney located against the east wall of the structure. The exposed studs and tie beams of this structure are pit sawn. At one time the interior walls were plastered. It also appears that the upper half story of the kitchen may have served as a sleeping loft at one time as some surviving floor boards remain

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 7.2 Description

sitting on top of the tie beams. The kitchen is pierced by a door and window opening to the exterior on the south elevation and a door to the shed addition on the west elevation. Most of the wall on the north elevation has fallen away.

A series of outbuildings are located on the east side of the house. In 1980, Gary Stone listed five unidentified outbuildings, two corn cribs, two barns, and a barley house as standing on the site. Only about five of these structures remain standing today.

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 7.3 Description (addendum)

(This description represents an updated version that contains additional information retrieved during site visits made in January and February, 1997.)

Contributing Resource Count: 2

The John H. Milburn House is located on the east side of Piney Point Road (Route 249) near Tall Timbers in St. Mary's County, Maryland. Oriented on an east/west axis, the dwelling is situated on a slight rise and surrounded by dense undergrowth. A series of deteriorating outbuildings, that include a barley house, two corn cribs, and a garage, are located to the east of the dwelling. The Milburn house exhibits an accretionary plan. The dwelling consists of a c. 1880s two-story, side passage parlor plan section to the north, a central c. 1840, one-and-a-half story one room section, and an early twentieth century one story southern wing. The house is also attached to a c. 1840s one-and-half story kitchen. All of these buildings roughly form an L shape plan.

The c. 1840 one-and-a-half story section is situated on a brick foundation. The braced frame is sheathed on the east and west sides with clapboard fastened with mature cut nails. This clapboard is covered with a later sheathing of asphalt shingles. The south elevation, however, features beaded, rabbeted clapboard fastened with cut nails. The roof, originally sheathed with wood shingles, is covered with corrugated metal and has a beaded boxed cornice. The c. 1880s, two story addition is supported by a brick foundation and sheathed with circular sawn weatherboard siding. The roof is covered with corrugated metal and exhibits a cornice trimmed with two scroll sawn brackets. The one-story addition is sheathed with asphalt shingle siding. The roof of this wing has collapsed.

The west or main elevation of the two-story wing is pierced by a one-light-over-two-panel entrance door with a two light transom window and two window openings. Three window openings on the second floor are aligned with the three first floor bays. A shed roof porch, now collapsed extends across the front facade of this wing and the smaller, original one-and-a-half story main block. The central, one-and-a-half story section of the house is pierced by a partially glazed door and a window opening. A pedimented gable roof dormer pierces the roof. A door and window opening pierce the west elevation of the one-story wing.

The south elevation features the gable ends of the one story wing and the original one-and-a-half story dwelling. The one story wing does not feature any openings. The gable end of the original dwelling, however, exhibits rabbeted beaded siding and evidence for a brick chimney. A window, lighting the half story, was located immediately behind the stack.

The east elevation of the one-story wing is pierced by a window opening. The one-and-a-half story block is pierced by a door and window opening. A pedimented gable dormer pierces the roof of this section as well. The two-story addition is pierced by a door and window opening. The northern-most bay of the two story wing consists of an oblong shed addition that houses a bathroom. A shed roof porch extends across the east elevation of the two-story and one-and-a-half story sections of the house.

The north elevation of the two-story addition does not features any openings. An exterior end brick chimney with a single set of shoulders extends beyond the roofline of the addition.

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 7.4 Description

The interior of the two-story wing contains two rooms—a stair passage and parlor. The rooms are finished with plaster walls and wide, molded window and door architraves. A paneled winder stair with a square newel post is located in the southeast corner of the hall. A closet was originally located under the stair. The second floor has been divided into two bedrooms and a side hall. Exposed framing shows that this section of the house was constructed using pegged mortise and tenon joints as well as cut and wire nails.

The one-and-a-half story original section consists of one large room on the first floor. The original door and window surrounds here exhibit a delicate interior bead. The baseboard is also crowned by beading. The firebox located against the south wall has been largely removed. Only two pilaster fragments of the Greek-Revival mantle remains. The pilaster rests on a plain block and consists of a recessed panel flanked by a series of built-up moldings. The north wall, while presently containing a doorway to the two story wing, contains evidence for a beaded window surround. One unusual features is a hole in the ceiling of the first floor located about three feet from the south wall. This hole may have served as a ventilator shaft that conveyed heat to the sleeping loft. An enclosed winder stair is located in the northeast corner of the room. A small closet has been built in underneath the stair. At the top of the stair remains a slender newel post. The corners of the post are finished with a lambs tongue chamfer at the corners. The upper half story one larege room. The remains of a window on the north wall of the upper half story is visible beneath the wall board that later covered this opening. It originally contained two independent sets of slender sashes with an unknown number of lights. Originally an exterior window on the north gable end of the building, this opening is on axis with the window on the suth side of the house. A small opening west of the window was built to provide access between the one-and-a-half story and the later two-story section of the house. The common rafter roofing system consists of pit sawn rafters that rest on the upper story's floorboards. These rafters also feature collar ties that are lapped and nailed into every rafter pair. Each rafter pair is bound at the roof's peak in an open mortise joint and are fastened together with mature cut nails.

The porch located on the east side of the house acts as a sheltered walkway between the house and the detached one-story kitchen located perpendicular to the house. Gary Stone, who visited the site with John A. Bowes in 1980, suggested that the kitchen is actually a nineteenth century outbuilding that was moved to the site and converted for use as a kitchen. Architectural evidence, however, suggests that the kitchen was either a dwelling, quarter, or a outkitchen before being moved.

Supported on cedar posts, the kitchen's brace frame is sheathed with asphalt shingles and weatherboard and roofed with corrugated metal. The roofline is finished with a boxed cornice. The west elevation, or gable end facing the main dwelling, features a single door entry. The south elevation is pierced by a door and window. A later shed addition, that features a window opening, was constructed across the east elevation of the kitchen. The east elevation, although significantly deteriorated probably contained a window and doorway much like that found on the west elevation.

The interior of the kitchen presently consists of two large rooms—one large room with an interior brick chimney flue located against the north wall and a smaller room, entered via a door in the north wall, located in the later shed addition. Evidence, namely the presence of numerous

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 7.5 Description

robbed mortises and bevel lap joints, suggests that the interior was originally divided into two rooms. According to John A. or "Jack" Bowes, a winder stair was once located in the southwest corner of the kitchen as well. The framing of the structure is significantly different than that found in the original house. The braced frame, consisting of hewn, pitsawn and exposed ceiling joists, studs and corner posts, features up-braces that are lapped into the corner posts with half-dovetail joints and fastened with wood pegs. The exposed ceiling joists are notched over the wall plate and support the flat false plate. The false plate supports hewn rafter pairs that are tied together with lapped collars fastened with mature cut nails. The rafters are then joined at the roof's peak with a pegged open mortise joint. While much of the flooring from the attic story has been removed, remaining pieces suggest that the floors were of pit sawn, random width boards that were gauged over the ceiling joists. No evidence for a larger chimney could be found.

A series of outbuilding are located east of the house. In 1980, Gary Stone listed five unidentified outbuildings, two corn cribs, two barns, and a barley house as standing on the site. Only about five of these structures remain standing today.

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 8.1 Significance

Chain of Title

TO: James C. Burch

FROM: Elsie Lydia Adelaide Biscoe, Ethel Julia Biscoe, Hattie Ann Biscoe, Alex

Langley Biscoe

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber CBG 39, folio 462.

DATE: September 9, 1952.

NOTES: Transfer of 137.827 acres.

TO: Elsie Lydia Adelaide Biscoe, Ethel Julia Biscoe, Hattie Ann Biscoe, Alex Langley Biscoe as tenants in common.

FROM: William L. and Mary P. Biscoe

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 10, folio 348.

DATE: August 21, 1937.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part of Piney Point" reserving a life estate for William and Mary

Biscoe. The parcel was originally 204 acres and is now 132 acres.

TO: William L. and Mary P. Biscoe

FROM: Ethel Julia Biscoe, Hattie Ann Biscoe, Alex Langley Biscoe RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 10, folio 347.

DATE: August 21, 1937.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part Piney Point."

TO: Ethel Julia Biscoe, Hattie Ann Biscoe, Alex Langley Biscoe as tenants in common.

FROM: William L. and Mary P. Biscoe

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Records, Liber JMM 6, folio 321.

DATE: March 30, 1929.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part Piney Point."

TO: William L. and Mary P. Biscoe

FROM: Langley Biscoe

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 6, folio 274.

DATE: December 11, 1928.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part Piney Point."

TO: Langley Biscoe

FROM: William L. and Mary P. Biscoe

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JMM 6, folio 273.

DATE: December 11, 1928.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part Piney Point."

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 8.2 Significance

TO: William L. Biscoe

FROM: Maria L. Tippett and J. Bean Tippett of Baltimore City RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 6, folio 434.

DATE: July 7, 1883.

NOTES: Transfer of Part Piney Point being 204 acres. Price: \$2700.

TO: Maria L. Bean FROM: James C. Bean

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JFF 6, folio 434.

DATE: July 7, 1883

NOTES: Transfer of the farm now occupied by Henry Adams being the farm formerly

occupied by John H. Milburn, 204 acres of "Part Piney Point."

TO: James C. Bean

FROM: Francis M. Goddard, Sheriff

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 2, folio 257.

DATE: April 23, 1867.

NOTES: Sale of "Part Piney Point" being 206 acres situate in St. Georges or the Factory district. This deed was issued to establish a clear chain of title for James C. Bean. See case 160 N.E.

TO: James C. Bean

FROM: John H. Milburn and Caroline Milburn

RECORD: St. Mary's County Land Record, Liber JAC 2, folio 256.

DATE: April 13, 1867.

NOTES: Transfer of "Part Piney Point" being 204 acres, the land whereon John H.

Milburn now resides. Price: \$450.

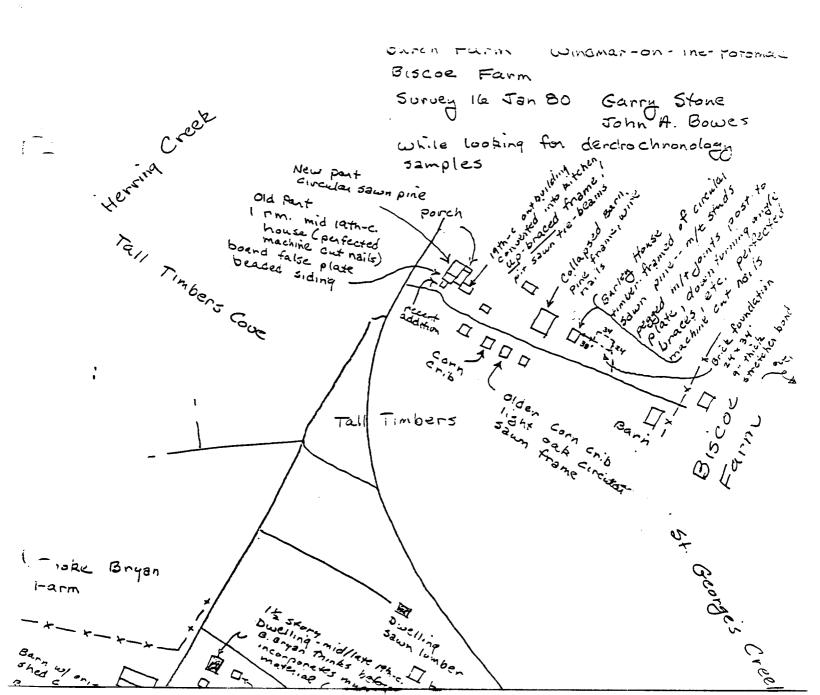
According to St. Mary's County court case No. 160 N. E., this property was sold at a sheriff's sale in August 1851 as the land of John H. Milburn. Robert N. Milburn, John's brother, was the purchaser. However, the sheriff died without executing a deed for the conveyance. Robert N. Milburn then sold the property to John H. Milburn, but Robert also died without executing a deed for same. James C. Bean brought this suit in order to get a clear title to the property.

There are no deeds in the St. Mary's County Land Records that show the conveyance of this property to John H. Milburn. He may have received it as a share in the division of his father's estate. The Benjamin Tippett Surveyor Log Books show that John H. Milburn had this property surveyed on April 7, 1851.

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 8.3 Significance

Site plan of John H. Milburn House (Biscoe Farm) by Garry Stone and John A. Bowes, dated January 16, 1980.

Source: St. Mary's City Architectural Files



SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 8.4 Significance

Description of "Piney Point,' John H. Milburn's Land" in Benjamin Tippett's Surveyor Log Book A, folio 138, dated April 7, 1851.

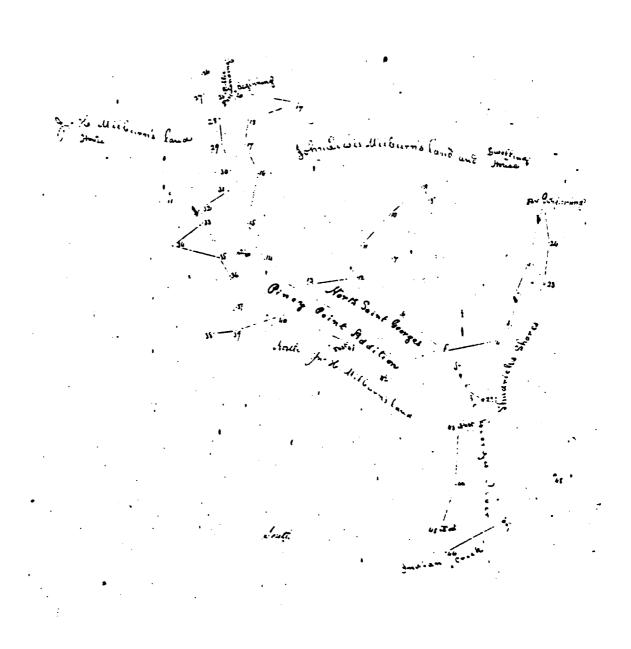
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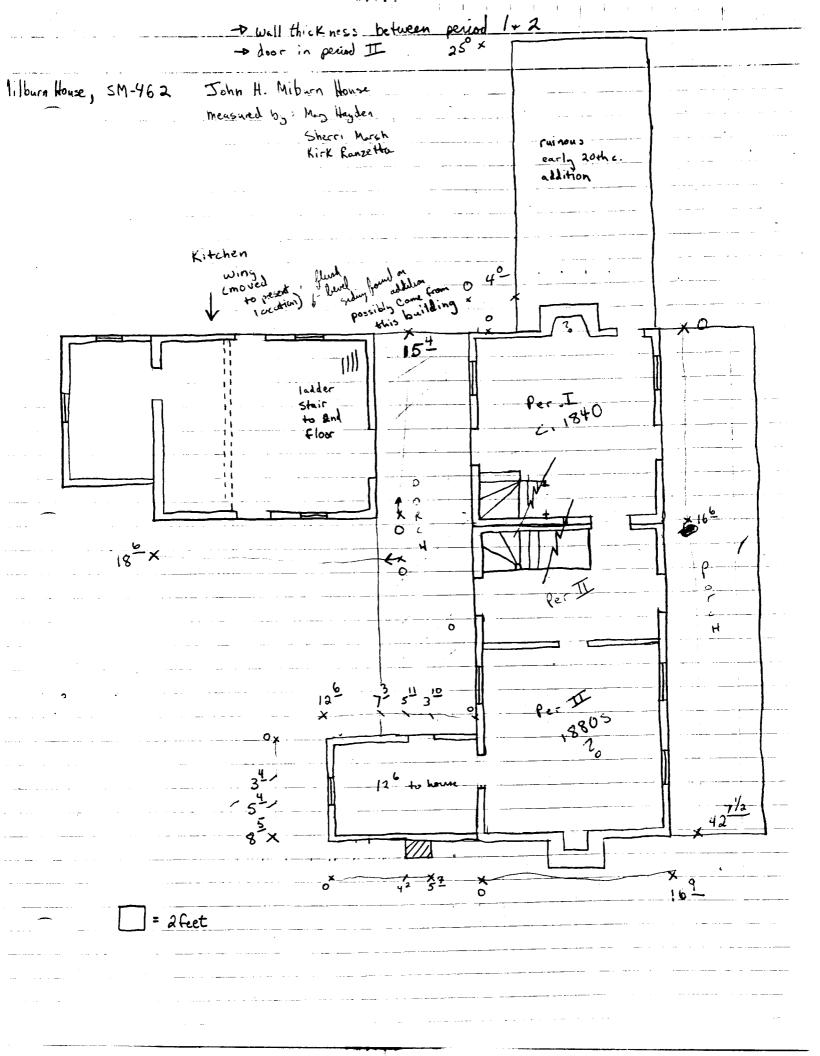
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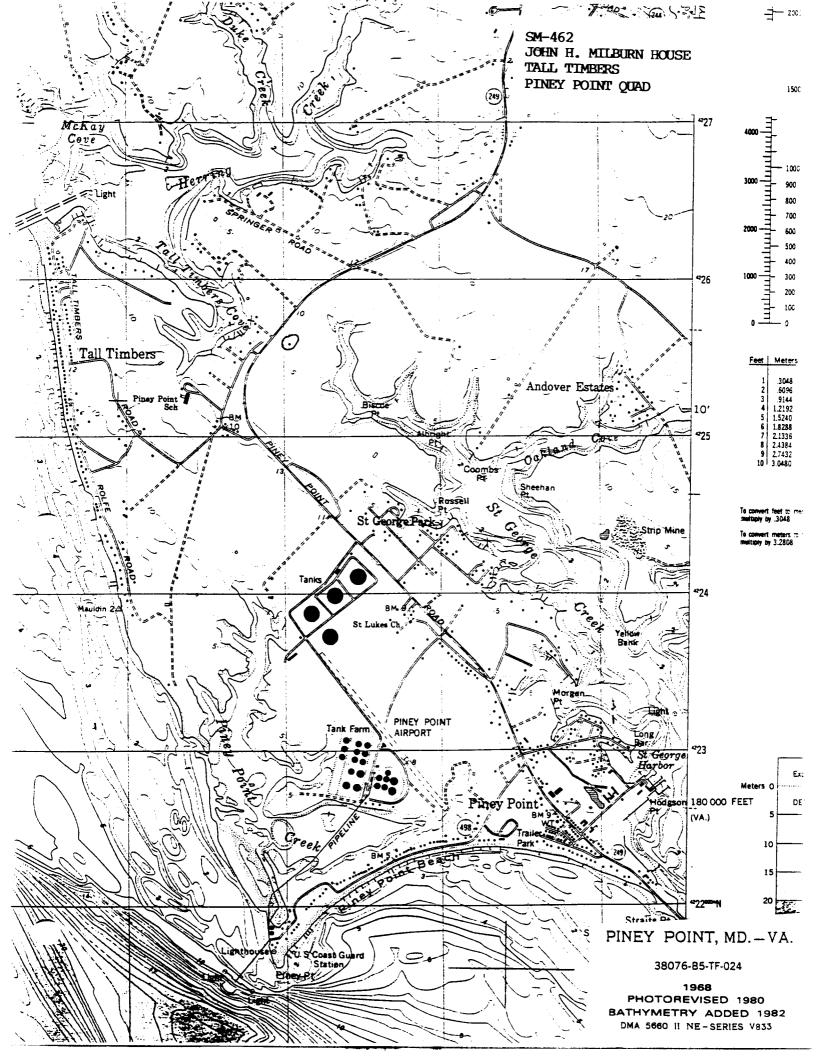
June Ofine 7th. 1854. With a Chair of to inches almost the London Standard.

SM-462, John H. Milburn House St. Mary's County 8.5 Significance

Plat showing John H. Milburn's land and house on "Piney Point" in Benjamin Tippett Surveyor Log Book B, folio 123.











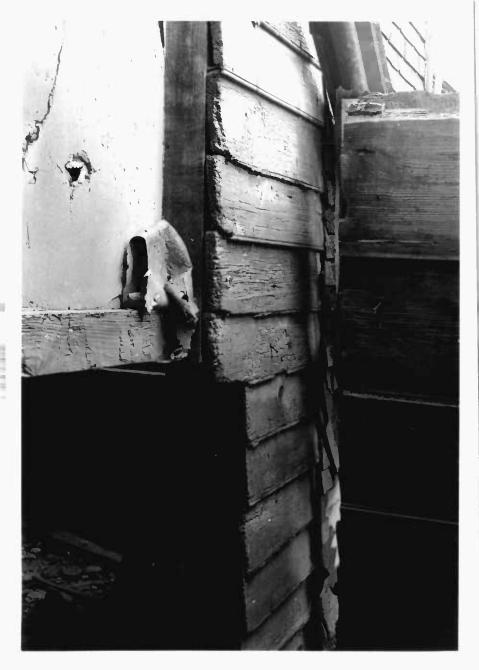
March 1884 2



5M-462 I'm + Milburn House May's Gurty, Ad + K Ronzetta 11 5410 Interest upper story, per I house looking N



m. 462 they Mary More Mary's many Mil K Kancetta 1 - HA. Interior, mantle fragments 20/3



SM-462 -hn H. Miburn House + Many's Courty, Mil Kirk Runzetta March, 1997 MI = HPO Experie beaded it is closestion 1 8 4